

HOUSE RESOLUTION 409
By Gresham

A RESOLUTION commemorating the officers of Middleton law enforcement who have fallen in the line of duty.

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of such laws has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals; these individuals, known as law enforcement officers, daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, May 15 of each year, as established by the United States Congress in 1962 and signed into law by President John F. Kennedy of that year, is designated as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, which is observed in conjunction with National Police Week; and

WHEREAS, the good people Middleton will celebrate Peace Officers' Memorial Day on May 15, 2004, with a ceremony commemorating those officers who lost their lives in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the 103rd Congress amended the law in 1994 to direct that the U.S. Flag be lowered to half-staff on National Peace Officers' Memorial Day; the amendment was signed into law by President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, since the first recorded police death in 1792, there have been more than 16,500 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, 1,658 law enforcement officers have given their lives in the line of duty during the last 10 years, an average of one death every 57 hours, or 167 deaths per year; 145 police officers were killed in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the deadliest day in law enforcement history was September 11, 2001, when 72 officers were killed while responding to the terrorist attacks on America; and

WHEREAS, on average, more than 58,066 law enforcement officers are assaulted each year, resulting in some 16,494 injuries; and

WHEREAS, engraved on the Memorial Wall in Washington are the names of 873 federal officers, 445 correctional officers, and 44 military law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, in addition to the thousands of local law enforcement officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are the first line of defense between criminals and law-abiding citizens, and they must often make life and death decisions in an instant; they are trained not only to enforce the law but to do so without prejudice or malice, while using good judgment and discretion, and with the highest regard for the constitutional rights of all people; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers must possess a general knowledge of medicine and psychology, as well as courage, courtesy, respect, and self-restraint; they can never allow their personal feelings to influence their decisions; and

WHEREAS, officers recognize that the badge is a symbol of public trust, and they must be forever mindful of the trust placed in them; they must strive to earn that trust, even in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that those officers who have dedicated their lives to the service of humanity through law enforcement, and those officers who have given their lives in this noble cause, be recognized and remembered for the accomplishment of their high purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Middleton, in honoring its own fallen officers, pay tribute to all of the brave men and women of law enforcement throughout the history of this country who have lost their lives while serving and protecting the public; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to join with the citizens of Middleton in remembering those Middleton law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that members of this Body

hereby join the City of Middleton in honoring the fallen men and women of Middleton law enforcement and offer our deepest, most heartfelt gratitude to the Middleton Police Department for its important role in keeping this State safe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all citizens to take this opportunity to honor and remember those courageous law enforcement officers who gave their lives while protecting the communities in which they worked and lived.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.